

## Message Text

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47

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R 141347Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6678  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2955

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON CENSORSHIP OF GOLAN BOOK

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ALL NEWSPAPERS REPORT ON CENSORSHIP OF GOLAN BOOK AND QUOTE EXTENSIVELY FROM FOREIGN PRESS. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS DEMAND SWIFT ACTION AGAINST SOURCE OF LEAK AND REPORT RUMORS THAT "MINISTERS" MIGHT BE INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO YEDIOT (OF MAY 13) "... IN THE CORRIDORS OF THE KNESSET RUMORS HAD SPREAD THAT SUSPICION HAS FALLEN ON TWO FORMER MINISTERS. THESE POSSIBILITIES ARE BEING EXAMINED BY THE AUTHORITIES."

3. MAARIV REPORTS " IN LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP TENSION HAS GROWN BECAUSE OF SUSPICION WHICH HAS FALLEN ON PERSONALITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE LEAKAGE OF CLASSIFIED POLITICAL OR SECURITY INFO LIABLE TO HAVE CAUSED HARM TO THE STATE. IN THIS CONNECTION ACCUSATIONS WERE MADE AGAINST TOP ECHELON UNCLASSIFIED

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PERSONALITIES WHO ALONE HAD ACCESS TO SUCH INFO. THESE PERSONALITIES REACTED SHARPLY TO THE SUSPICIONS, CLAIMING THAT THIS WAS A (SMEAR) CAMPAIGN INSTIGATED FOR PERSONAL REASONS IN ORDER TO BESMIRCH THEIR IMAGE..."

4. MAARIV EDITORIAL (MAY 13) ATTACKS DISCLOSURE OF STATE SECRETS AND WRITES THAT "IT IS INCONCEIVABLE, AND IT SEEMS THAT IT WOULD NOT OCCUR TO ANYONE TO CLAIM THAT THE HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT MATTY GOLAN HAS QUASI BROKEN INTO A SECRET SAFE IN ORDER TO REMOVE FROM IT A BUNCH OF MOST SECRET DOCUMENTS, WHICH SERVED HIM AS "RAW MATERIAL" FOR WRITING HIS BOOK "CONFRONTATION AND DISENGAGEMENT," THE PUBLICATION OF WHICH HAS BEEN PROHIBITED BY THE MILITARY CENSORSHIP.

(PARA) SOMEONE, WHO HELD THOSE PAPERS, OR COPIES THEREOF, HANDED THEM OVER. IT STANDS TO REASON THAT THE "SOMEONE" COULD UNDERSTAND THAT GOLAN NEITHER REQUESTED NOR RECEIVED THOSE DOCUMENTS IN ORDER TO SATISFY AN INTELLECTURAL CURIOSITY AND BROADEN HIS EDUCATION, BUT IN ORDER TO USE THEM FOR A FAR MORE PROSAIC PURPOSE, VIZ., TO CONCENTRATE THEM IN A BOOK WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE BECOME A BESTSELLER.

(PARA) THE NEW YORK TIMES HAS IT THAT THE DOCUMENTS INCLUDED CLOSELY GUARDED SECRETS ABOUT THE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, HENRY KISSINGER, CONDUCTED WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA ON THE SEPARATION OF FORCES.

(PARA) THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IS NOT ONLY ENTITLED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT IN ORDER TO DISCOVER WHO THAT "SOMEONE" IS WHO COMMITTED AN ACT BORDERING ON TREASON, BUT IS OBLIGATED TO DO SO.

(PARA) NO MOTIVATION OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF INFO CAN JUSTIFY THIS WHOLESALE EXPOSURE OF SECRET STATE DOCUMENTS, THE PUBLICATION OF WHICH WAS LIABLE TO SABOTAGE IN A VERY SERIOUS MANNER THE MOST VITAL INTERESTS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

5. MAARIV (MAY14) REPORTS A STORM IN THE LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP OVER THE "AFFAIR OF GOLAN'S BOOK."

(PARA) IN THE TOP ECHELONS OF THE LABOR PARTY THERE IS GREAT EXCITEMENT BECAUSE OF WIDESPREAD REPORTS THAT A FORMER MINISTER HAS LEAKED THE SECRET INFORMATION WHICH APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPERS (HAARETZ) CORRESPONDENT'S BOOK (MATTY GOLAN), THE PUBLICATION OF WHICH HAS BEEN PROHIBITED BY THE CENSORSHIP.

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(PARA) SOME OF THE LABOR PARTY LEADERS ANNOUNCED, THAT IF AN END IS NOT PUT TO THE SMEAR AND WHISPER CAMPAIGN AND SUSPICIONS AGAINST A FORMER MINISTER (A CAMPAIGN) "WHICH HAS ITS ORIGIN IN POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS IN ORDER TO DAMAGE HIS IMAGE"--THE AFFAIR IS LIABLE TO CAUSE A SPLIT IN THE PARTY.

(PARA) PARTY LEADERS WORKED HARD YESTERDAY IN ORDER TO POUR OIL ON THE TROUBLED WATERS AND TO PREVENT THE "AFFAIR" COMING UP WHEN THE POLITICAL DEBATE IN THE ALIGNEMENT BEGAN, SO AS NOT TO BRING ABOUT "AN EXPLOSION" IN THIS DELICATE MATTER. THUS, THE DEBATE WAS CONDUCTED IN A FACTUAL MANNER.

(PARA) THE HEADS OF OTHER PARTIES DEMANDED A VIGOROUS INQUIRY IN ORDER TO FIND OUT HOW THE SECRET MATERIAL HAD GOTTEN INTO MATTY GOLAN'S HANDS, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PRIMIN

RABIN WILL TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES IN ORDER TO DISCOVER THE SOURCE OF THE LEAKAGE.

(PARA) IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LABOR PARTY THE CONTROVERSY ALSO CONTINUED ABOUT MK ABBA EBAN'S EXPRESSIONS IN HIS INTERVIEW TO MAARIV...

6. HATZOFI (MAY 14) POLITICAL REPORTER WRITES THAT (PARA) IT IS NOW LEARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S 'INTERNAL' DECISION TO AUTHORIZE THE PRIME MINISTER TO TAKE STEPS AGAINST SOURCES OF LEAKS WAS DUE TO FACT THAT ONE OF THE MINISTERS' TEAM THAT HELD THE SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WITH KISSINGER WAS SPEAKING TOO FREELY. FOR REASONS THAT ARE NOT HARD TO GUESS, REPORTS OF MATTERS THAT TOOK PLACE IN A CLOSED ROOM WITH NO MORE THAN FIVE OR SIX PEOPLE PRESENT WERE PASSED ON TO HAARETZ REPORTER GOLAN AND INCLUDED IN HIS BANNED BOOK. THE PRIME MINISTER'S FILE OF KNESSET QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT HAS ALREADY REACHED CONSIDERABLE DIMENSIONS. (PARA) IF THE LEAK IS TRACED TO MINISTERS, THERE MAY BE MAJOR UPHEAVALS. RABIN IS BEING QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT IF THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO KISSINGER IN THE BOOK HAD BEEN PUBLISHED, KISSINGER WOULD HAVE HAD TO RESIGN AND FUTURE US MEDIATION WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE. GOLAN HAS BEEN ASKED TO SURRENDER ALL COPIES OF HIS MANUSCRIPT TO THE CENSOR, BUT HAS BEEN PROMISED ACCESS TO THEM IF PUBLICATION IS PERMITTED AT ANY FUTURE TIME. THERE ARE INDICATIONS POINTING TO A FORMER MINISTER AND A PRESENT MINISTER. THE FORMER MINISTER IS THOUGHT LIKELY TO HAVE KEPT HIS MATERIAL TO HIMSELF FOR HIS MEMOIRS; THE MINISTER UNCLASSIFIED

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STILL IN OFFICE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN OUT FOR PUBLICITY BY SHOWING HOW IMPORTANT A ROLE HE PLAYED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND MAY HAVE TO RESIGN IF HE IS FOUND TO BE TO BLAME. END QUOTE. VELIOTES

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